Appl. No. 10/080,301
Amendment and Response filed August 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2007

REMARKS

Specification and Drawings Objections:

The Examiner made objections to both the specification and drawings. These objections are related, and will be discussed together below.

With regard to the specification, the Examiner stated that the whole para. [0029] was unclear, especially as to where input ports 56 and output ports 58 are connected, and how they operate (i.e.: how they together allocate bits to bus 60)

A new para. [0029] is enclosed herewith. In addition, a new Fig. 3 is also submitted herewith and identified as a Replacement Sheet. (No changes were made to Fig. 4)

As illustrated in new Fig. 3, interface circuit 54 is part of allocation module 34. Interface circuit 54 is specifically positioned between the allocation module 34 and the personality modules 28, 30, 32 that are received into the plug-in slots in device 18). (See para. [0027] for support)

Per the Examiner's request, para. [0029] of the specification has been corrected to conform to the remainder of the specification. As such, the input port 56 and output port 58 of interface circuit 54 transmit data back and forth to allocation module 34, while the data transmitted from the allocation module 34 through interface circuit 54 and into the personality modules plugged into slots 28, 30 and 32 passes through bits 60. Bits 60 are hardwired into the plug-in slots in device 18.

Obviousness Rejections:

In setting forth his rejections, the Examiner stated that Hochschild teaches "an interface circuit 350 comprising a plurality of bits hardwired to the slots, wherein each slot has both dedicated bits and data bits that are shared between neighboring slots".

Appl. No. 10/080,301
Amendment and Response filed August 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2007

(a) The Present Rejections:

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth:

(1) the slots being *plug-in physical slots*, and

(2) the personality modules being *cards that are physically received into the plug-in slots*.

As seen in Fig. 2, the present invention comprises a chassis 18, having a front panel 20 having a plurality of separate physical slots 22. As illustrated, sixteen slots are provided with a top row of eight slots and a bottom row of eight slots.

The personality modules (28, 30 and 32 of Fig. 3) are peripheral cards that are physically plugged into the slots by hand.

In accordance with the present invention, a system is provided for allocating system bandwidth among the various personality module cards that are plugged into the slots.

(b) The Hochschild System:

Hochschild is a system for managing the transmission of message "chunks". It operates by breaking messages into "chunks" and then classifying the chunks into "critical" and "non-critical" portions. Typically, these chunks are 8-byte message portions (Col. 12, line 4). The critical portions of the message are routed first, followed by the non-critical portions of the message. (See Col. 7, lines 27 to 40) The message data is itself stored in a central queue 350 as chunks in 128 64-bit locations (Col. 12, lines 19 to 21) An arbitration scheme is also used to determine what order the various message chunks should be routed. (Col. 13, lines 10 to 14)

(c) The Present Invention Distinguished

The presently claimed invention describes a system for allocating bandwidth among a plurality of plurality of *cards that are physically hand plugged into different slots* in the

Appl. No. 10/080,301
Amendment and Response filed August 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2007

chassis of the device.

In contrast, Hochschild describes a system for breaking messages into "chunks", prioritizing the chunks, and then transmitting some chunks faster than others. Hochschild does not describe a system that allocates bandwidth among various physical plug-in components, as claimed.

In view of the forgoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/080,301
Amendment and Response filed August 24, 2007
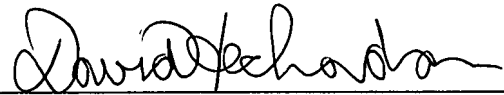Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2007

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that it would facilitate prosecution, Applicants' Attorney, David Heckadon, may be contacted at (415) 875-3266 or at dheckadon@gordonrees.com.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account **50-1990** referencing Attorney's Docket No. **BIPIC-1022987**, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 24, 2007   By: _____

David R. Heckadon
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 50,184

**Please recognize our Customer Number 27111
as our correspondence address.**

GORDON & REES, LLP
101 West Broadway, Suite 1600
San Diego, California 92101-8217
Phone: (619) 696-6700
Facsimile: (619) 696-7121
Attorney Docket No. BIPIC-1022987

BIPIC/1022987/1228808v.1